

# BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1970

Council Offices,  
Monmouth.

M.S. MATHARU, L.R.C.P. & S.I., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

MONMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mayor

Alderman R. R. H. Willcox

Deputy Mayor

Alderman P. C. Harris

ALDERMEN

Mr. W. L. Bigham

Mr. J. C. Lewis

COUNCILLORS

Mrs. N. C. A. Smith

Mr. C. H. Martin

Mr. R. Bishop

Mr. R. N. Smith

Mrs. N. S. Price

Mr. G. C. Moss

Mr. W. J. L. Wills

Mr. G. E. Butler

Mr. S. H. H. Clarke

Mr. T. D. Flynn

Mr. B. F. Amos

Mr. H. W. Bywater

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Town Clerk - D. G. Allen, F.I.M.T.A.

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Public Health Sphere Leader

Councillor Mrs. N. S. Price

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health

M.S. Matharu, LRCP & SI, IM, DPH.

Borough Surveyor

D.H. Cowles, MAPHI, AFS.

Additional Public Health Inspector

W. R. Taylor

# BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH



MONMOUTH

11th April, 1973

The Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Monmouth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Monmouth for the year ended 31st December, 1970.

It was rather sad that Mr. Haigh the Borough Surveyor/Public Health Inspector, who gave so much service to this Borough decided to find employment in the Scilly Isles. I am sure he will be missed in this capacity.

This year marks the beginning of the ultimate changes that will take place in the health structure of Public Health and to a large extent in the reorganisation of local authorities as outlined in the new local government reorganisation papers. I personally feel that this change will produce large authorities with central offices which may not be advantageous in serving the community as efficiently as our present system.

The Public Health service is to be integrated into new schemes for the reorganisation of the National Health Service as a whole. I sincerely hope that in whatever role the present office of Medical Officer is placed that it should be such that he is connected with the community so that he can be in the strategic position which gives him the advantage over diseases and other medical-social factors enabling his preventive work to be effective immediately at the time of need.

Might I bring to your attention a unique social experiment i.e. the formation of the Voluntary Co-ordinating Committee in Monmouth. This Committee consists of all the Voluntary organisations in this area with representatives from each of the churches. The aim is simply to co-ordinate and extend the existing resources of the voluntary organisations and hence avoid duplication of facilities they already provide.

The health of the Borough continues to be satisfactory. The population growth is marginal as seen by the figures.

In the production of this report credit is accorded to Mr. Dennis Cowles, Mr. Haigh's successor and to Mr. Taylor for their continual co-operation and support.

I am your obedient servant.

M. S. Matharu  
Medical Officer of Health

## GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

This year the County started using the computer at County Hall, Newport, to arrange immunisation and their appointments. It is, therefore, not possible for me to give separate figures for the Monmouth Borough for the number of children that have been immunised in local clinics as was the custom in the previous years.

### Diphtheria

No case of Diphtheria has been notified in this year.

### Smallpox vaccinations

No case of Smallpox has been notified this year.

### Poliomyelitis

No case of Poliomyelitis has been notified this year.

### Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning has been notified this year.

### Tuberculosis

Two case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified.

## MONMOUTH BOROUGH 1970

### STATISTICS

The estimated mid-year population was 6,360. In 1969 the population was 6,280. This was a natural increase i.e. the figure that the number of births exceeds the number of deaths was 6.

#### Births

<u>Live births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Grand total</u>
Legitimate	40	48	88	94
Illegitimate	4	2	8	

The birth rate in 1970 remains the same as in 1969. Here again it is interesting to note that the highest number of births recorded since 1950 was 111 in 1952 and the lowest 73 in 1959.

<u>Still births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	1	-	1

This year obviously does not rank as good as 1960, 1962, 1965 and 1969 when there were no still births but it compares favourably with the state of conditions in relation to 1952, 1953, 1961 and 1963 when three still births were recorded per year.

#### Infant Mortality

This year there were two deaths of infants under one year - one male and one female. This compares again favourably with 1951 when there were five deaths, but it naturally does not compare well with 1960, 1964 and 1968 when there were no deaths under one year.

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	32	56	88

The death rate amongst females in 1970 has remained the same as in 1969 and the death rate amongst males has dropped from 43 in 1969 to 32 in 1970.



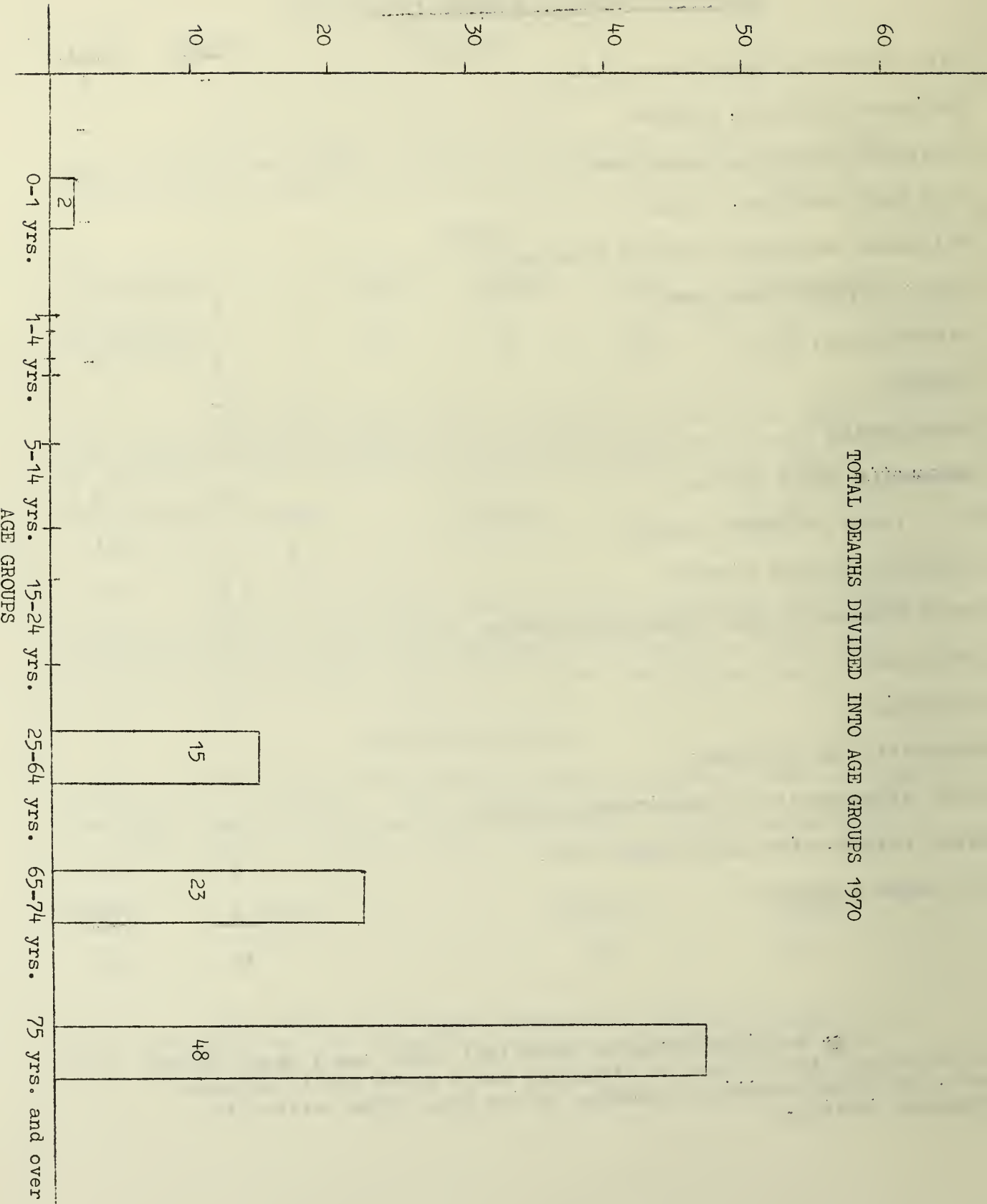
DEATHS IN MONMOUTH BOROUGH 1970

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Late effects of Respiratory T.B.	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, intestines	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung and bronchus	4	3
Other malignant neoplasms	1	2
Avitaminoses, etc.	1	-
Anaemia	-	1
Hypertension	-	2
Ischaemic heart disease	13	8
Other forms of heart disease	1	11
Cerebral vascular disease	4	15
Other diseases of the circulatory system	1	1
Influenza	1	2
Pneumonia	1	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	0
Other diseases of the respiratory system	0	1
Birth Injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	0
All other accidents	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
	32	56

It was interesting to note that there was 1 death due to avitaminoses (due to lack of vitamins) and 1 death due to anaemia which are known entities occurring in the old, often related to improper feeding.

Number of Deaths 1970

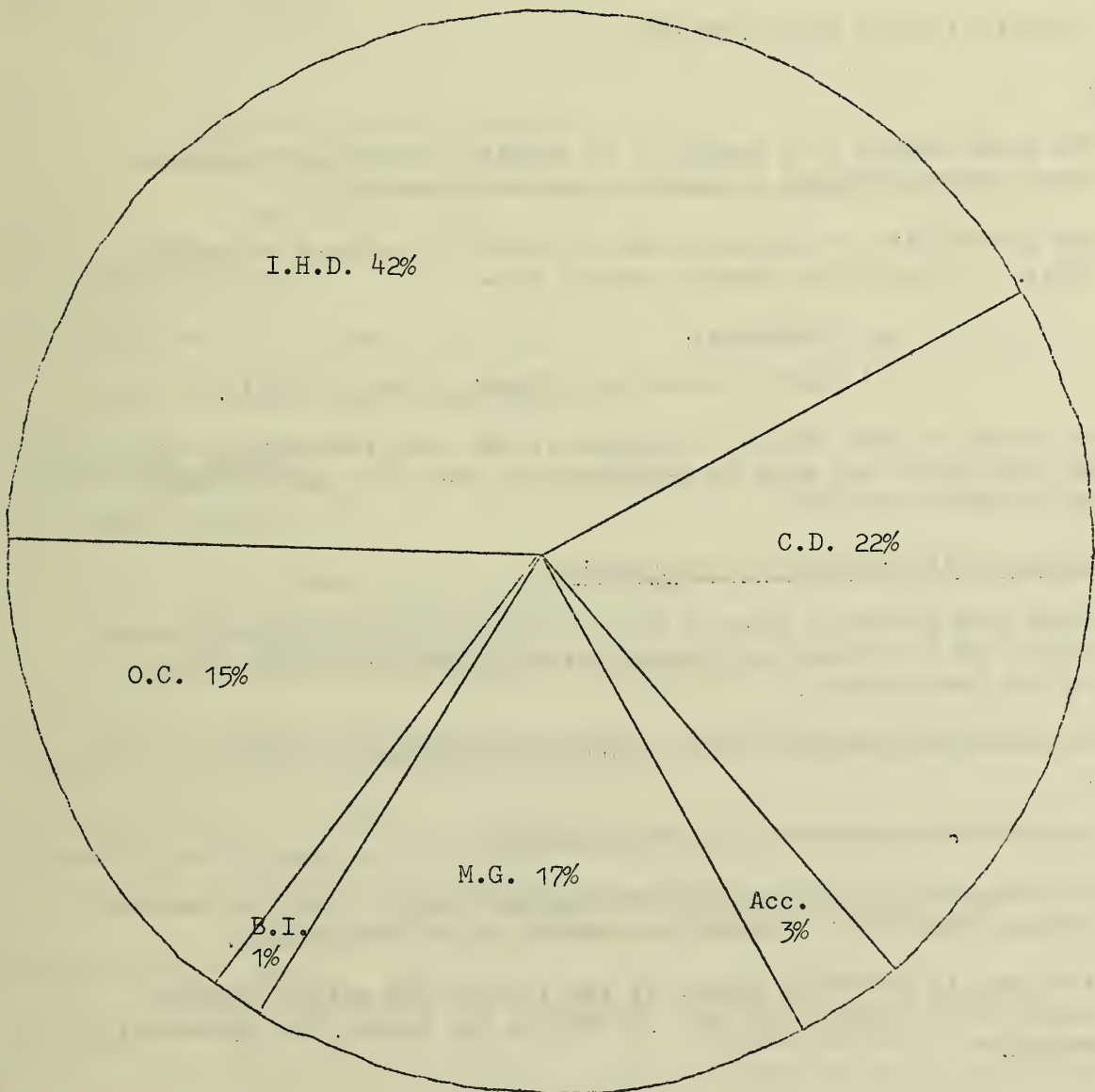
TOTAL DEATHS DIVIDED INTO AGE GROUPS 1970





1970

Ischaemic and Heart Disease	=	I.H.D.	=	42%
Cerebro-Vascular Disease	=	C.D.	=	22%
Malignant Growths	=	M.G.	=	17%
Other Causes	=	O.C.	=	15%
Accidents			=	3%
Birth Injuries			=	1%



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER

The main water supply of the town is supplied by the Wales Gas Board, Monmouth Gas and Water Undertaking. There are three separate sources of supply:

- (1) High Pressure, Buckholt
- (2) Low Pressure, Buckholt
- (3) River from Mayhill

#### (1) High Pressure, Buckholt

Supplies 110,000 galls. per day.

#### Source

The known source is a spring in an opening in the rock formation in a large quarry situated in woodland and is fenced off.

The possibility of contamination at source is reduced to animal wild life. The gathering grounds consist of:-

- (a) Woodland;
- (b) Agricultural land forming sides of hill.

As spring is near top of a syncline in the rock formation it is possible that there may only be contamination from this agricultural land during heavy rainfall.

#### Collection, Purification and Distribution

Water from gathering grounds drains to inaccessible chamber buried under road, and to collection chambers within boundary of plot of land owned by the Undertaking.

The water is piped from these collecting chambers to storage tanks.

Water is chlorinated by Gas Chlorination.

The chlorinated water passes from storage tanks to main to Buckholt Water Works. Here it is filtered and passed out to town mains.

At Highfield Road this supply is fed into 75,000 gallon storage tanks which feed Osbaston and town, including the Kymin, via hydrostat, and Wyesham.

(2) Low Pressure, Buckholt

Supplies 1,241,000 galls. per day.

Source

The origin of source is unknown, gathering grounds are probably Buckholt Woods.

Collection, Purification and Distribution

Spring water collects in chamber by side of road below Cider Mill Cottage and is piped to Buckholt Water Works. Here it is chlorinated, then passed through slow sand filters and into the town mains. These mains go across country to Leasbrook Lane and feed Dixon Road, etc.

Water Works, Buckholt

These consist of:-

- (1) High Pressure filter
- (2) Two slow sand filters
- (3) Drip feed chlorination. Chlorine solution made from chloride of lime.

(3) Mayhill Supply

Supplies 171,000 galls. per day.

This is mainly river water pumped.

Water Works, Mayhill

These consist of:-

- (1) Storage tank, 245,000 gallons
- (2) Two slow sand filters
- (3) Chlorination tanks
- (4) Clean water storage, 12,000 gallons

The water passes through sand filters, is chlorinated by Gas Chlorination in clean water storage tanks.

The supply was regularly sampled for bacteriological examination, 97 samples being taken as follows:-

	NO.	PASS	FAIL	RESULT ON RESAMPLING
PUBLIC SUPPLY	35	35	-	Satisfactory
PRIVATE	2	-	2	Unsatisfactory - owners fitted private chlorinators

## General Remarks

The poor pressure areas of Rockfield, Brook Crescent and Brook Estate have now been improved and the cisterns converted from pressure to high pressure types. Periodical complaints have though been reported but have resolved themselves.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year 28 new houses were connected to the main sewerage system, all being privately owned. In addition to which 33 existing properties were connected to the completed sewer at Osbaston.

### Redbrook Road Works

Sewage on east side of Wye gravitates to a position near the opening to the present inverted syphon on the east bank of the River Wye. A pumping station has been constructed on Corporation land behind the Monmouth School pavilion. A pumping main has been laid across the School playing fields, following the line of the old sewerage to the Redbrook Road and along the road to the treatment works.

The works consist of:-

2	Detritus Chambers and Screens
4	Settlement Tanks
4	Filter Beds
6	Humus Tanks
12	Sludge Beds

together with various pumps and mains at the treatment works.

Sewage first goes to the detritus chambers and screens where large solids are screened and passed direct to the sludge drying beds. Sewage passing through the detritus screens goes next to the settlement tank where biological action takes place and the solids left again go through to the sludge drying beds. Liquid sewage, with suspended solids, from the settlement tanks is then passed through to the filter beds. Bacteriological action takes place in these beds further breaking down the liquids into non-noxious parts. From the filter beds the liquid goes to the humus tanks where all remaining suspended solids are precipitated and passed to the sludge drying beds. The remaining liquid, which is now virtually pure, is then discharged into the river. Any liquid remaining in the sludge drying beds drains off and is passed back for further treatment. The sludge when dry is removed.



The works operated satisfactorily throughout the year, the Royal Commission standards being obtained for final effluent.

#### Unsewered Areas

There remains three areas of the town without a sewerage system, namely,

- (a) Northern area - Manson Cross, Manson Heights and Manson Lane;
- (b) Osbaston - Phase I of the scheme came into operation in the early part of the year, bringing in Prospect Road, St. Mary Well Road and Duchess Road into the water carriage system thus alleviating to a great extent the problems of nuisance from septic tanks.
- (c) Leasbrook Lane and the lower half of Dixon Road.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The total area of collection remains the same as for previous years.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION

Weekly collection is made to most of the area, certain outlying areas receive a fortnightly collection. All business premises in the centre of the town receive two collections weekly.

The use of paper sacks has been extended to all new Council property and has proved satisfactory. The existing staff are still maintaining an efficient regular collection service including the new development areas.

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL

Brooksholme Tip has been run under strict "Controlled Tipping" and has greatly improved conditions normally found there. Together with the purchase of a Volvo digger conditions can now only improve, as the tip becomes more and more consolidated and grassed over fires, vermin and smell should be eliminated. A full time operator is employed in surface dressing and "face" control.

## HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses owned by the local authority:-

(1) Under the Housing Acts	841
(2) Other powers	4

Number of houses erected during the year:-

(a) By local authority	NIL
(b) By other bodies and persons	28
	<hr/>
	<u>28</u>

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.

(a) Corporation owned

During the year 940 complaints were made of defects, these in the majority were inspected by the officers and details of work required were passed to the labour force for action. It is still a matter of concern that we seem to be building a bigger back log of work each year, the tradesmen we have dealt with approximately 800 items of disrepair following complaint and about 150 routine defects found other than by complaint.

(b) Others

A detailed inspection was made of known "twilight areas" and reported upon.

2. A number of private dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.

NIL

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(1) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act;

(a) A number of premises in respect of which notice was served requiring repairs

NIL



3.	(2) Proceedings under Public Health Act;	
	(a) A number of premises in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	NIL
	(b) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice	
	(i) By the Owners	NIL
	(ii) By the Local Authority in the Default of Owners	NIL
	(3) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1936	
	(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	NIL
	(b) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	NIL
	(c) Undertakings given and accepted	2
	(d) Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
	(e) Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the house or room having been rendered fit	NIL
	(4) Clearance Area - Houses demolished	NIL
	(5) Unfit houses purchased by agreement and demolished	NIL

4. Improvement Grants

The use of improvement grants to bring houses up to modern standards is still being encouraged.

Standard Grants - 1

Discretionary Grants - 11

### CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

Site	No. of Vans	W.C.s	Taps	Gullies	Bins
Drybridge Street	15	1M 1F	2	2	5
Old Hadnock Road	8 vans 5 tents	1M 1F	2	2	3
"Riverside", Homestead Old Hadnock Road	12	3M 3F	4	8	9
King's Orchard, Manson	6	1M 1F	1	1	3

The above are licenced sites; besides these several fields adjoining the river are used by Exempted Organised Bodies. The number of tents on these sites varies considerably from 2 to 30.

#### Sites used by wandering "Tinkers" etc

##### Chippenham

Four times this site was used by caravaners, numbers ranging from 1 - 8 vans, the site being left in a little better state than previous years.

### SWIMMING POOLS

There are three pools, one at Monmouth School for Girls, one at Monmouth School and one owned by the Monmouth & District Swimming Association.

Several visits were paid to the pool at Chippenham and water examined; all were satisfactory.

### SCHOOLS

All schools are on the main sewerage system, and all schools are on the main water supply. Samples of milk and water were taken periodically by Monmouthshire County Council.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Unsound Food

The following miscellaneous foodstuffs were condemned:-

Meat	10 tins	Tomatoes	220
Fruit	32	Miscellaneous	81

Following an accident in which a complete consignment of "Tinned Meat" was deemed unfit a condemnation note was given for approximately 7,000 tins.

Three retail shop freezers broke down during the year the contents of which were taken to the tip, a note was given in each case stating Retail Value of goods and not of individual items to the total sum of £185.

### Distribution of Food Premises by Trades

Butchers	12	Fishmongers	2
Greengrocers	6	Grocers	13
General	19	Hotels	4
Guest Houses	4	Licensed Premises	34
Clubs	4	Schools	7
Fish & Chip Shops	3	Cafes	9
Bakers	3	Miscellaneous	3
Total		125	

### Premises Registered under Food and Drugs Act, 1955 S.16

Ice Cream Premises	28
Fish and Chip Shops	3
Sausage and Cooked Meats	9

### Disposal of Condemned Food

The unsound food from shops is disposed of at the Refuse Tip.

ANNUAL REPORT ON RATS AND MICE

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

Year Ended 31st December, 1969

Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	2,660	26
2(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	68	
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	10	
(ii) Mice	58	
3(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	NIL	
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	-	
(ii) Mice	-	
Sewers		
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year?	NO	

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	4	NIL	NIL
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	47	15	NIL	NIL
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total	54	19	NIL	NIL



2. Cases in which defects were found:-

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more separate "cases").

	No. of cases in which defects were:				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) a. Insufficient b. Unsuitable or defective c. Not separate for sexes					
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Inspection of Business Premises under the following Acts

(a) Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act.

During the years inspections, which numbered 95 no serious contraventions were noted and of the few verbal notices given all were complied with on revisiting.

TABLE A REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Totals	*(1)	*(2)	*(3)	*(4)
Offices			24	
Retail Shops			83	140
Wholesale shops, warehouses			3	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens			19	7
Fuel Storage Depots			4	NIL

\*(1) Class of premises

\*(2) Number of premises registered during the year

\*(3) Total number of registered premises at the end of year

\*(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year

TABLE B NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY  
INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

59

TABLE C ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED  
PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed	
	Males	Females
Offices	13	102
Retail Shops	101	236
Wholesale departments, warehouses	24	21
Catering establishments open to the public	32	138
Canteens	Nil	Nil
Fuel Storage Depots	<u>3</u>	<u>Nil</u>
Total	172	497
Total Males and Females	656	497

(b) Food Hygiene Regulations

All food shops in the Borough were inspected during the year at least once, and it is pleasing to note that apart from a small number of shops a good all round standard of hygiene is maintained.

Number of formal letters sent re. unsatisfactory conditions NIL

Number of legal proceedings taken NIL

(c) Shops Act

No serious contraventions were found, minor contraventions were dealt with informally usually without further warnings.

Number of premises inspected 36

Number of premises re-inspected 64

(d) Food & Drugs Act

There are 40 premises registered under this Act.

Civic Amenities Act 1967

Removal and Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles

A steady increase is noted over the year in the number of vehicles having to be dealt with under the Act a total of 7 vehicles compared with 3 of the previous year.



